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Monday, June 25, 2012

# REE Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.



## Red Carpet glitter with the opening of the Aruba International **Film Festival**

Seven nights of star studded red carpet premiers began on Friday evening, June 22 as Oscar and Golden Globe nominated Virginia Madsen was welcomed by Aruba International Film Festival Executive Producer Jonathan Vieira at the Paseo Herencia Mall in Palm Beach for the regional premiere of "The Magic of Belle Isle," co-starring Morgan Freeman.

The entire weekend the center thrummed with excitement, particularly on Saturday night for the World



Jonathan Vieira welcomes Virginia Madsen

Premiere of "Children of the Wind." Producer Robert Mc-Cormick, Director Daphne Schmon and Associate Producer Alex Campbell walked the red carpet along with the champion windsurfers from Bonaire, Elton "Taty" Frans,

Kiri Thode and Bjorn Saragoza, whose stories of being catapulted to world fame from the most humble of beginnings is the plot of the stunningly realized documentary.

Continue on pg 8-9



Film Festival treat young baseball players

Pictured are the three local Little League teams invited by Paseo Herencia and Aruba International Film Festival. The weekend was dedicated to the Caribbean Spotlight Series and Aruba Flavor Competitions, with several stirring entries providing thoughtful insights on Caribbean culture while showcasing some remarkable filmmaking. One of the most fascinating entries was the documentary "Ballplayer:Pelotero," by U.S. filmmakers Trevor Martin, Jon Paley and Ross Finkel, with the latter two being on island for the screening of their film. Paseo Herencia General Manager Valerie Pietersz-Camacho, a "baseball mom," felt this would be a wonderful cinema experience for many of Aruba's young baseball enthusiasts, and suggested to AIFF Executive Producer Jonathan Vieira to treating 3 local kids' teams to an afternoon at the movies, to which he readily agreed. (see more on pg 4)





## Aruba National Library is almost back in business



Minister Dowers turns over the keys to Astrid Britten



Library Director Britten and sfaff will be working hard all summer

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Friday BlackJack Tournament

Saturday KOFFIE MORGEN

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In ship shape again

On Friday, June 22, Aruba's Minister of Justice and Education, Arthur Dowers, turned over the keys to a completely renovated and refurbished main branch of Aruba's National Library, which they expect to have fully functional for the opening of the 2012-2013 school

vear.

Library Director Astrid Britten and her team will be busy all summer restocking the shelves and setting up the research, administrative and research centers, as the building is completely empty at present; all the equipment and inventory have yet to be

transported from storage.

A collapse of the ceiling and decent of air-conditioning ducts and wiring exposed the sorry state of repair, forcing the library to close on September 9, 2010. Nearly two years and 2.8 million Arubian florins later, the building on George Madurostraat looks spanking new, ready to greet avid readers and researchers in August.

The exposition room in the lobby has also finally been fitted with a proper façade, with a number of other necessary improvements done on the library, which originally opened its doors in 1982.

Ms. Britten expressed regret that the usual roster of children's reading programs and family movie nights will not take place this year over the school break, as all library personnel will be busy preparing for the grand reopening. The San Nicolas branch is still open for lending and reading.

By Rosalie Klein

# **Travel Promotion Levy is now approved by Parliament**

Last Friday Parliament, during a public hearing, deliberated and approved into law the Travel Promotion Levy (TPL) presented by the Ministry of Tourism. This law has to do with a levy of \$10 which will be imposed on air traffic tickets of passengers flying to Aruba. It means that all tickets for flights to Aruba will be charged an additional \$10. This money will be used to promote the island internationally and will be deposited directly into the covers of the Aruba Tourism Authority.

Long before making this decision to implement such a levy, the government did its due diligence. They did an

extensive analysis and research and employed the services of the Airport Strategy & Marketing Company (ASM). The research took into consideration 15 international airlines which have the biggest impact on Aruba, which are among others, American Airlines, Air Canada, Jet Blue, Avianca, Copa Airlines, Continental Airlines, Delta and KLM.

Minister Oduber also met with advisers and representatives of ATA, AHATA, and AAA. He visited these airline companies personally and dialogued with them on the matter of the TPL and 85 to 90% of these airlines indi-

cated that they understood and support the idea of the levy. They also confirmed that the levy would have no impact whatsoever on their operations.

The additional \$10 that would be added to every ticket purchased to travel to Aruba will not be charged to local residents of Aruba. Nor will this levy be applied to residents where Aruba has airport tax agreements such as with Bonaire. This Travel Promotion Levy will definitely help create a substantial fund to help promote and grow Aruba's tourism and economy.



# Republicans pursue 'contempt' charge for Obama aide

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A senior Republican opponent of President Barack Obama tasked with probing a gunrunning scandal refused Sunday to back down from plans to seek a contempt of Congress citation against Attorney General Eric Holder.

Darrell Issa, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, said he would send a letter to Obama on Monday or Tuesday explaining why the president was wrong to use his executive privilege to protect Holder in the "Fast and Furious" case.

The Republican-controlled House of Representatives "will vote this week if there isn't a negotiated settlement,"

THE WEEK OF FESTIVAL

over the withholding of hundreds of documents that could shed light on the operation, Issa told Fox News Sunday.

"Fast and Furious" was a botched government effort to allow thousands of guns to be bought by arms traffickers so they could be tracked to higher-level traffickers and key figures in the Mexican drugs cartels.

The practice, used by previous administrations and known as "gunwalking," came under the microscope when firearms traced to the program were linked to the December 2010 shooting death of US border agent Brian Terry.

Holder, the president's top legal official, is accused of

withholding key documents from the probe. Obama raised the stakes on Wednesday by asserting "executive privilege" -- a president's authority to keep evidence secret, often on the grounds of national security.

Following Obama's move, the Oversight committee voted along party lines, 23-17, to censure Holder and send the report to the floor of the House for what would be a historic contempt vote.

The White House has branded the Republican assault a "fishing expedition" timed to hurt Obama's reelection chances four-and-a-half months before the November presidential election.

# South Americans bar new Paraguay leader from summit

ASUNCION (AFP) - Paraguay's new president was barred Sunday from participating in a summit of South American presidents next week, deepening the country's isolation over the ouster of former president Fernando Lugo.

Argentina's foreign ministry said the move was adopted by the other members and associate states of Mercosur, a South American trading bloc that is scheduled to meet Thursday and Friday in Mendoza, Argentina.

The statement expressed the group's "most energetic condemnation of the rupture of the democratic order that occurred in the Republic of Paraguay, for not having respected due process."

The summit had loomed as a key test for Paraguay's President Federico Franco, who has so far failed to gain international recognition for the government that replaced Lugo.

Lugo told reporters earlier Sunday that he planned to go to the summit, calling his sudden impeachment and ouster by a Senate vote on Friday a "parliamentary coup d'etat."

Oil-rich Venezuela, whose membership of Mercosur has been blocked by Paraguay, recalled its ambassador to Asuncion and halted oil shipments over the move, with Chavez saying he would do nothing to support "this coup."







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## SETAR introduces SurfSuper 4G especially for the new Samsung Galaxy SIII

SETAR (Aruba's telephone/internet/cable company), has introduced the new Samsung Galaxy SIII with a special package for users to make maximum use of this brand new telephone. With the purchase of the Samsung Galaxy SIII the Summer Special will be added, which gives the client the first two months gratis service for whichever 2-year postpaid package chosen; and the first month free service for any 1-year postpaid package. SETAR's Surf & Mail Add-on will allow the client maximum speed of 4G on the Samsung Galaxy SIII.

The Samsung Galaxy SIII is the newest model in the Samsung Galaxy series. This cellular has created great popularity and anticipation among Android lovers. The slogan it boasts is: "Made by humans, Inspired by nature.

What makes this cellular so innovative is that it is a 4G Android Smartphone which has the Android OS 4.0 which is the newest on the global market. It has an HD AMOLED touch screen, the so-called Gorila Glass. This makes the window of this cellular non-scratchable. It has an 8MP camera with LED flash and HD



video that can record si-

multaneously.
With the Buddy Share feature, the user can share pictures instantly; watch videos in HD while texting Pop Up Play and Beam videos of games on television with AllShare Cast.

The Samsung Galaxy SIII is available at all SETAFR teleshops as of Saturday June 23rd. In the

Saturday June 23rd. In the upcoming days SETAR will be distributing the magazine with all their Summer Specials. It is obvious; SETAR continues to be the better, faster and most reliable service on the island!



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## Paseo Herencia and Aruba International Film Festival treat young baseball players to a memorable afternoon at the movies



Island youngsters with Aaron Hose, Jon Paley and Ross

The Aruba International Film thoughtful Festival is in full swing after Caribbean culture while opening night at Paseo Herencia Shopping Center in Palm Beach. The full roster of international, regional and local films will be screening through Thursday, June 28. The weekend was dedicated to the Caribbean Spotlight Series and Aruba Flavor Competitions, with several stirring entries providing

insights on showcasing some remarkable filmmaking.

One of the most fascinating entries was the documentary "Ballplayer:Pelotero," by U.S. filmmakers Trevor Martin, Jon Paley and Ross Finkel, with the latter two being on island for the screening of their film.

The film depicts the real

life drama of young Dominican Republic Major League Baseball hopefuls, seeking to escape the crushing poverty of their lives by secontracts curing from the scouts sent there annually to recruit players from an island that accounts for 20% of professional players in the U.S.

It focuses on two of these young players, still only in their mid-teens, as they "navigate the calculating, mercenary and often cor-

rupt elements that surround Major League recruitment of the island's top talent." The film is narrated by veteran actor John Leguizamo.

Paseo Herencia General Manager Valerie Pietersz-Camacho, a "baseball mom," felt this would be a wonderful cinema experience for many of Aruba's young baseball enthusiasts, and suggested to AIFF Executive Producer Jonathan Vieira to

treating 3 local kids' teams to an afternoon at the movies, to which he readily agreed.

Baseball teams Infinity Sportshop, Cai Cai Giants and Benjamin Security, with players ages 5 to 6, 7 to 8 and 10 to 11, respectively, were an irrepressible presence on the red carpet on Saturday afternoon, June 23, for the international premiere of "Ballplayer:Pelotero," the absolute definition of adorable in their team uniforms.

CSS and Aruba Flavor Creative Director Aaron Hose, a veteran documentary filmmaker, thoroughly enjoyed his role as host for the ebullient group, finding their young enthusiasm "energizing," as did filmmakers Jon Paley and Ross Finkel, who thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the young players.

Coaches and baseball moms confirmed it was a thrilling adventure for all involved!

By Rosalie Klein



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## TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

## **International News**

# Ousted Paraguay leader accuses lawmakers of 'coup'



ousted president Fernando Lugo

A S U N C I O N ( A F P ) - Paraguay's ousted leader Fernando Lugo on Sunday accused lawmakers of carrying out a "parliamentary coup d'etat" to force him from power, as international protests mounted over his abrupt removal.

In his first public appearance since his impeachment on Friday over a deadly land

dispute earlier this month, Lugo again blasted Congress for its snap decision but said he would nevertheless accept it in the name of peace.

"Lugo has not been dismissed; democracy has been dismissed. They have not respected the popular will," the ousted leader said in an unexpected appearance

at a street protest attended by about 500 people in the capital Asuncion.

In a 39-4 vote, lawmakers on Friday found Lugo guilty of performing his duties badly during the armed clash on June 15 that claimed the lives of six police and 11 squatters on a privately-held farm.

His vice president Federico Franco was quickly sworn in to cheers in the Congress as Paraguay's new leader.

Lugo acknowledged that it would be "very difficult" to return in power, but said there should be no more violence, adding: "Peacefully, the democratic process will continue, with more strength."

Franco on Saturday told AFP in an interview in his office that he hoped Lugo would help him stem the international outcry over the change in power.

The torrent of furious responses to the ouster came not just from traditional leftist allies like Bolivia, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

No foreign government has recognized Paraguay's new leadership.

Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay -- Paraguay's partners in the Mercosur trading bloc -- recalled their ambassadors for consultations.

# Turkey takes jet downing to NATO, Syria tension soars

DAMASCUS (AFP) - NATO said yesterday it will discuss Turkey's accusation of Syria shooting down one of its warplanes in international airspace, as Damascus suffered heavy losses and violence scaled new heights.

Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu warned Ankara's southern neighbour not to challenge Turkey's military, as Britain, another member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, offered its support for "robust" international action.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague said: "The (President Bashar al-) Assad regime should not make the mistake of believing that it can act with impunity. It will be held to account for its behaviour.

NATO said it will meet on Tuesday to discuss the issue following a request by Turkey.

Damascus said it downed the F-4 Phantom on Friday after it violated Syrian airspace.

Turkey had on Saturday acknowledged the plane may have done so, in comments seen as a bid to cool tensions between the former allies, but it now appears to have taken a harder stance.

CNN-Turk television, meanwhile, reported that search and rescue teams have located the wreckage of the jet at a depth of 1,300 metres (yards), but did not give its precise location. Ankara said it could not confirm the report.

Turkey-Syria relations have

already been strained by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's outspoken condemnation of the Assad's regime's bloody crackdown, which rights activists say has killed more than 15,000 people since March 2011.

#### -- Bad week for Assad --

At least 34 people were killed on Sunday in Syria, including 18 troops who died in clashes with rebels, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported.

The Observatory also reported that rebels had shot down a Syrian regime helicopter near the Jordanian border.

According to Observatory figures, 94 people were killed in Syria last Monday, 62 on Tuesday, 88 on Wednesday, 168 on Thursday, 116 on Friday and 116 on Saturday.

The mounting death toll was a result of the international community's inability to agree on a way to resolve the crisis, he said.

"The UN observers have suspended their mission and this is a very bad decision. They are just staying in Syria and not going out to observe," said Abdel Rahman.

On Thursday, a Syrian pilot was granted asylum in neighbouring Jordan after flying his MiG-25 fighter across the border.

A Russian ship that tried to deliver attack helicopters to Syria entered the northern port of Murmansk on Sunday after being forced to turn back when news of its mission was leaked.

# Bolivia police deny deal, recommit to 'mutiny'

LA PAZ (AFP) - Police in Bolivia rejected Sunday a pay deal between the government and the unions and recommitted to a mutiny that has seen the military deployed onto the streets to keep the peace.

The government of leftist President Evo Morales has accused the striking police of setting the stage for a possible coup attempt by stockpiling weapons and pressuring other units to turn over their arms.

Bolivian Interior Minister Carlos Romero announced overnight that the government had signed a deal on new salary terms and that officers had agreed to end their mutiny in key cities.

But within hours any such deal appeared to be falling apart.

"Police mutiny! Police mutiny!" they chanted, while any officials and employees found in police stations across the capital were being turfed out by strike supporters, accused of not joining the movement.

Police in other major cities like Potosi, Cochabamba and Beni had also rejected the deal, which would have seen pay packages boosted by 220 bolivianos (32 dollars) a month, Catholic radio Fides reported.

Refusing to budge from their demand for a minimum pay hike to 2,000 bolivianos (\$287), from the current average of \$195 a month, police in the capital denounced union leaders for caving in to the government.

Their demands also include

full pay upon retirement, a police ombudsman, and the overturning of a law that bans them from publicly expressing their opinions.

In addition, demonstrators are calling for the resignation of the national police chief, Colonel Victor Maldonado.

Defense Minister Ruben Saavedra on Saturday announced that the military was deploying more troops onto the streets to protect private property and ensure public

The mutiny began Thursday when protesters took over the headquarters of the country's riot police and eight other police stations. It then spread to more than two dozen police stations and command centers across the country.



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### **International News**

# Australia announces new Syria sanctions

SYDNEY (AFP) - Australia on Monday announced fresh sanctions against Syria restricting or prohibiting trade in oil and financial services to ramp up pressure on President Bashar al-Assad's regime to end bloodshed.

The new measures also affect trade between Australia and Syria in petroleum, telecommunications and precious metals. They are in addition to an existing arms embargo and sanctions against individuals connected to the regime in Damascus.

"The Assad regime continues to show its unwillingness to negotiate a ceasefire and bring an end to Syria's blood-

shed," Foreign Minister Bob Carr said in a statement quoted by the Australian Associated Press.

"These sanctions reflect Australia's condemnation of the Assad regime, and our continued efforts to help bring Syria to the negotiating table."

The European Union is also expected to slap fresh sanctions on Assad's regime at a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg on Monday.

More than 15,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in Syria since the outbreak of the revolt against Assad's rule in March 2011, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

# Argentine bishop quits over racy beach photos

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - An Argentine bishop has tendered his resignation after racy photos showed him cavorting with a woman at a beach in Mexico, media here reported Sunday.

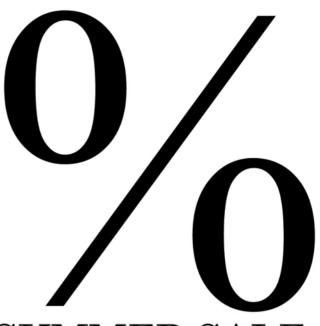
The bishop, Fernando Bargallo, 57, who led the diocese of Merlo-Moreno outside Buenos Aires since May 1997, has been under pressure to give up the post since photos surfaced this month showing him frolicking and embracing the bikini-clad woman. He wore nothing but swim shorts.

In the ensuing scandal, Bar-

gallo initially said the woman was a merely longtime friend, but late last week finally admitted having "amorous ties" with her, according to the Clarin daily

Church officials were not immediately available to confirm or deny reports of the clergyman's resignation.

Pope Benedict XVI, who reportedly has been briefed about the scandal, will make the ultimate decision about whether to accept Bargallo's resignation, church observers said



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## Islamist Morsi says will be leader for all Egyptians



CAIRO, (AFP) - Egypt's Mohamed Morsi, the first Islamist to be elected president of the Arab world's most populous nation, said Sunday he will be a leader "for all Egyptians" and called for national unity after a polarising race.

Morsi, the country's first elected leader since a popular uprising ousted president Hosni Mubarak, won 51.73 percent of the vote against expremier Ahmed Shafiq.

"I will be a president for all Egyptians," Morsi said just hours after he was declared the winner. "I call on you, great people of Egypt ... to strengthen our national unity," he said, adding that national unity "is the only way out of these difficult times".

Morsi, who resigned from the Muslim Brotherhood to take the top job, thanked the "martyrs" of the uprising for the victory and stressed that "the revolution continues".

The 60-year-old engineer also vowed to honour international treaties.

Egypt was the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel, in 1979.

The election comes after 18 months of a tumultuous military-led transition from Mubarak's rule, marked by political upheaval and bloodshed.

"The winner of the election for Egyptian president on June 16-17 is Mohamed Morsi Eissa al-Ayat," said the head of the electoral commission, Faruq Sultan earlier.

The announcement saw hundreds of thousands of

Morsi supporters erupt in celebration in Cairo's Tahrir Square, waving flags and posters of the Islamist leader, who was jailed during the uprising that overthrew Mubarak early last year.

Losing candidate Shafiq, who was widely perceived as the military's candidate, joined the country's military ruler Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi in congratulating Morsi.

Morsi resigned from his posts in the Muslim Brother-

hood and its Freedom and Justice Party, which he headed, after he was declared the winner, the Brotherhood announced.

And the interim head of the Coptic Church, many of whose faithful have feared the rise of Islamists, also congratulated Morsi.

Shafiq supporters who had gathered to hear the result with his campaign team in the suburbs of Cairo were devastated by the result.

Some women screamed and

others cried as several men held their heads between their hands in despair.

The capital was tense before the announcement, with the city's notoriously busy streets deserted and shops and schools closed.

The election has polarised the nation, dividing those who feared a return to the old regime under Shafiq from others who wanted to keep religion out of politics and who fear the Brotherhood would stifle personal freedoms.



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# Red Carpet glitter with the opening of the Aruba International Film Festival

**Continued from pg 1** 



COTW team with Tati Frans, Kiri Thode and Elvis Martinus



Cuban Filmmaker Rigoberto Lopez and Jessica



Maker and star of Aruba Flavor entry Castigate



Kima Momo crew

Sunday night featured a special showing of "Goodfellas," with renowned actor Ray Liotta providing his exciting presence on the red carpet, along with "Twilight: Eclipse" actor Xavier Samuel, who was in Aruba



Jorgen Raymann



Star/Producer of 'Awa Brak'

for the regional premiere of his starring vehicle from Australia, "A Few Best Men," Film fans can interact with Ray Liotta during the "In Conversation With.." dialog at The Cinemas at Paseo Herencia today at 5:00 PM.

The AIFF is always an exciting event; each year offering a new roster of films, dialogs and exciting after parties and special presentations. It is an opportunity to meet and greet famous names from both sides of the cam-



**Greeting Pietro Scalia** 



Rogers and Cowan's Executive Vice President Nikki
Parker and Int'l press



Art contest winner Nigel Matthew with family

era.

This year, important film-makers include Oscar winner Pietro Scalia, who two most recent films, "Prometheus:" and "The Amazing Spiderman" are this year's summer blockbusters, and Steven Stabler, executive producer of dozens of top films including

"Dumb and Dumber."

The AIFF magazine with a full schedule of all events, screenings and dialogs can be obtained at the box office of The Cinemas at Paseo Herencia or viewed on the AIFF website: http://www.arubainternationalfilmfestival.com

By Rosalie Klein



# Red Carpet glitter...



















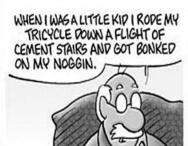




















## CROSSWORD



#### ACROSS

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- island
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- wds.) Letters after 35.
- 36. Cash machine
- (abbr.) 37. Astronaut
- Armstrong
- 38. Filler
- Truck stop
- sighting 41. Pounds
- (abbr.)
- 43. Imitated 46. Computer communica-

tion (hyph.)

- 50. Exaggerate 54. Modern diagnostic
- 55. Scot's skirt
- tool (abbr.) 56. Musical

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- marking 57. Acorn maker Brashness
- Witch's spell 59 NNW's opposite
- DOWN Golfer's
- hazard Mammoth
- Draft status
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- 6. Superman's
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- 45. Glen
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- 48. Some nest
- eggs (abbr.)
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- Through
- 52. Raised
- railroads
- 53. Range rider's nickname

# 13 14 16 17 57





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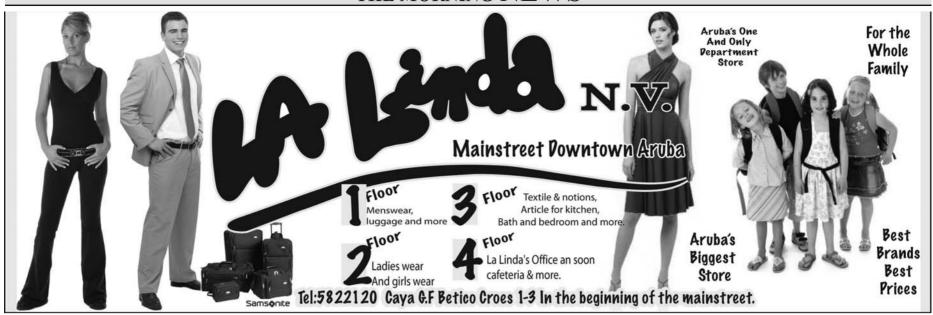
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# Sudoku

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## **Finance**

# Auditors to postpone Greece visit: government source

ATHENS (AFP) - An inspection of Greek reforms by international creditors will be delayed, a government source said on Sunday, with the new prime minister and finance minister both sidelined by health trouble.

Officials from the so-called "troika" of Greece's creditors -the EU, IMF and the European
Central Bank -- were to arrive
in Athens on today to resume
close monitoring of Greek finances last conducted in February.

The new government, built around the conservatives and backed by socialists and moderate leftists after June 17 elections, wants a two-year extension to its tough fiscal adjustment.

It also wants to review a number of cost-cutting labour reforms recently enacted which it sees as depressing demand in the midst of a five-year recession.

Both minister will miss a key EU summit this week as Athens bids to begin renegotiating the terms of an unpopular austerity-

based bailout, meaning that Greece will be represented at the summit by Foreign Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos.

Neither Samaras nor Rapanos are due to be discharged from hospital until at least later today.

Samaras coalition government that emerged from June 17 elections already has a mountain to climb, and no time to lose.

State coffers are almost empty, with reserves set to last only until late July.

Athens needs 7.6 billion euros (\$9.5 billion) by the end of July just to cover maturing debt, and the state's tax takings have fallen short of targets.

Greek banks are also in poor shape despite a recent recapitalisation to cushion the effects of a major sovereign debt rollover.

In his election campaign, Samaras had pledged to redress "injustices" in the austerity-centred bailout deal which most Greeks consider to have exacerbated the recession and killed off any demand left in the economy

#### off any demand left in the econterms of an unpopular austerityange Rates Current as of: I 06/22/2012 U.S.A. **USD** 1.78 1.80 100.00 100.20 98.00 **Dutch Antilles ANG** 1.73 1.71 Canada CAD Britiain GBP 185.78 186.50 187.30 Switzerland 221.31 223.33 Netherlands 225.57 **EUR** Sweden **25.10** 25.90 SEK 30.59 Denmark 29.79 29.07 DKK 30.38 Norway **29.58** NOK 28.86 219.81 221.82 224.05 Japan **JPY** (per 100) All rates for amounts up to AWG 100.00 per item.

# 700 North Sea oil workers strike

OSLO (AFP) - More than 700 oil workers went on strike in Norway yesterday after pension negotiations broke down, prompting production closures which could cost tens of millions of dollars per day, the employers' organisation said.

The stoppage will cut oil and gas production at Statoil's Oseberg and Heidrun fields in the North Sea, the Norwegian Oil Industry Association (OLF) said, adding though that it would take four to five days for both fields to shut down.

It will also postpone work on getting the BP-ESS-run Skarv field into production, which is scheduled for the second half of the year.

"That could have an impact on production start-up, reservoir utilisation and other planned operations," the statement said.

The strike began after two days of talks broke down over employers' refusal to change its decision to cut a pension add-on for employees who retire at 62, three years ahead of the general age for oil workers and five years ahead of Norway's official retirement age, the SAFE and Industri Energi unions explained in a joint statement.

"Oil company employees have an average annual income of 1.0 million kroner and a retirement age of 65. This already makes them Norway's pension winners" OLF said.

# SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer LAII AMY PACK ONO MOOD RITE ONA BLUEBERRY MODELT RAE SSE RAINBOW MATS LINT AVE RIJO WINGS SIR IDO ROSE CEDE SALTINE DAB

USE FORAYS
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# Argentines desperately seeking dollars

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Argentines are on edge since the government imposed draconian measures to control money changers. The measure has complicated their compulsive buying of dollars which, alongside football, is a national pass-time.

So-called cellars, the few places where US dollars can still be illegally bought, have sprung up in the capital, but the greenback in these places is now sold at a premium -- up to six pesos. The official exchange rate is 4.5.

The vendors lining Florida street in the city center are constantly at risk of being caught by policemen, who have dogs trained to sniff out dollars.

Dollar fever rose when President Cristina Kirchner opted to impose radical controls on currency exchanges and curb imports to protect \$46 billion in reserves and a \$10-billion trade surplus.

4,000 middleclass protestors were railing against what they say is a corrupt government that has created economic havoc and imposed draconian restrictions on buying dollars.

"With my money, I do what I want!" or "I want to save without explanation!" said the banners around Buenos Aires.

"The saver doesn't know where to go any more," said psychiatrist Lia Rincon of Buenos Aires University. These last weeks, tax authorities have stopped authorizing exchanges of pesos for dollars, except for trips abroad, in a bid to stop hoarding.

"People will have to accept that it is impossible to return to the time (in the 1990s) when the pesos was pegged to the dollar," said Mario Rapoport, an economist at the Institute for historic, economic and social studies.

Meantime, people are facing increased hardships while media reports have revealed that members of the government are holding onto their dollars.

Kirchner herself was forced to announce on television that she would convert her dollars savings into pesos, a total of \$3 million, according to the media

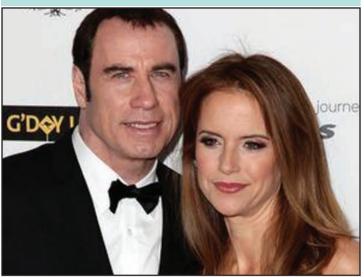
However "pesofying" the economy, could backfire in many sectors such as real estate which rely on the dollar. "We risk slowing economic activity," predicts economist Eduardo Curia.

Growth projections for Argentina are on the decline, after reaching an average eight percent between 2003 and 2011 (except in 2009 when a recession hit).

"There are unfortunately risks of stagflation," in other words combined inflation and a recession, says Kiguel. "In Chile or Brazil, interest rates are higher. It's the price to pay for a stronger currency."



## John Travolta Sued By Book Author



file photo- John Travolta with wife Kelly Preston

Robert Randolph, Book Author of "You'll Never Spa in This Town Again" sued on Friday John Travolta. The controversial author who claimed he personally witnessed the actor engaged in gay activities at various bathhouses claims Travolta spread lies about his mental health in order to diminish his credibility.

Travolta's lawyer, Marty Singer allegedly said Randolph had been in mental institutions and suffered from brain damage.

"Several of the statements made by Defendant Singer, on behalf of Defendant Travolta, are untrue and amount to defamatory statements sought to disparage the quality of (Randolph's) property and reputation and to induce members of the public to believe (Ran-

dolph) is an unreliable source and thus abstain from purchasing" his book, the complaint alleges.

Randolph claims the attack was concocted to persuade the public that he's an unreliable source, and they should notbuy his book. Randolph claims Travolta's plan worked, and retailers were deterred from selling his book.

Randolph is suing both Travolta and Singer for unspecified damages.

Travolta's attorney, Marty Singer, released a statement saying, "This is a ridiculous lawsuit. It is based on our letter which was completely privileged under the law. We intend to sue the attorneys for malicious prosecution after the court promptly dismisses this baseless lawsuit."

# 800,000 at 'sensational' Vienna open-air music fest



VIENNA, Austria (AFP) - Around 800,000 people visited Vienna's Donauinselfest (Danube Island Festival) on its opening day, organisers said Saturday, hoping that the sunny weather will attract even more on the second day. Friday saw performances by British singers Marlon Roudette and James Morrison, German band Unheilig and local favourite Hubert von Goisern. Other highlights for the weekend include Scotland's Simple Minds and Germany's Silbermond. In total, some 2,000 artists were due to provide a total of 600 hours of music on the festival's 12 stages. Entry is free and the three-day event is organised by the Austrian capital's ruling Social Democrats of Mayor Michael Haeupl.

## UNITED COMMERCIAL CITY N.V.



# Woody Allen dislikes own films, but won't retire



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Woody Allen says he can't stand watching any of his own films -- but the 76-year-old US filmmaker insists he has no plans to retire.

Speaking in Hollywood -the home of an industry the New York veteran famously scorns -- he also joked about his latest movie, "To Rome with Love" in typically selfdeprecating style.

""To Rome with Love' is a terrible title. My original title was 'Bop Decameron,' and nobody knew what the Decameron (a 14th century Italian book of stories by Giovanni Boccaccio) was, even the Italians didn't know," he said.

"So I changed it to 'Nero Fiddles,' and half the countries in the world said 'we don't know what that means, we don't have the expression.' So finally I settled on a generic title like 'To Rome with Love' so everybody would get it."

The director who made his name with films including "Annie Hall" and "Manhattan," and who famously makes movies at the rate of more than one a year, compared the process to cooking.

"When you make a film, it's like a chef who works on a meal. After working all day in the kitchen, dicing and cutting and putting sauces on you don't want to eat it," he told reporters, promoting "To Rome with Love" in Beverly Hills.

"And that's what I feel about a film. I work on it for a year. I've written it, I've worked with the actors, I've edited, I've put the music and I just never want to see it again."

He elaborated: "When I begin a film, I always think that I'm gonna make 'The Bicycle Thief,' 'Grande Illusion' or 'Citizen Kane' and I'm convinced this is gonna be the greatest thing that ever hit celluloid.

"And then, when I see what I've done afterward, I'm just praying that it's not an embarrassment to me. So I've never been satisfied or even pleased with a film that I've done.

Even Woody Allen's fans concede that the director has gone through weak periods -- most agree the last few years have seen a return to form, and even commercial success.

But he insisted that his embarrassment about his own movies extends to classics including "Annie Hall (1977) and "Hannah and Her Sisters" (1986).

Allen, who has not acted in one of his films since "Scoop" in 2006, also returns to the screen as the father of a young American woman about to

marry her Italian boyfriend.

"When I write the script, if there is a part for me, I take it. As I'm getting older, the parts diminish," he said.

But he insists he has no plans to retire.

"Retirement is a very subjective thing. Guys I know are retired and they are very happy, they travel all over the world, the go fishing, they play with their grandchildren. And they never miss work at all.

"And then, there are other people, I'm one of that kind, that love to work all the time. I can't see myself retiring. I need to get up and work and go out."



# Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using fami- lies, famed hotelier Ed Ma-lone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer



the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

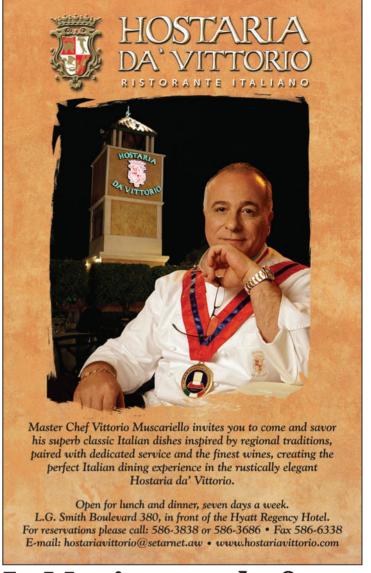
"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and

extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode: barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiberoptic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the pack-

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings. visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba. com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

THE ANIMAL RELIEF FOUNDATION ARUBA



# Is Mexico ready for a female president?

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Josefina Vazquez Mota's quest to become the first female president of Mexico -- a country long associated with macho men -- is burdened by her association with the unpopular current president.

Both Vazquez Mota, 51, and President Felipe Calderon are members of the conservative National Action Party (PAN), and many voters see the July 1 presidential election as a referendum on 12 years of PAN leadership.

Vazquez Mota claims that Mexico is ready to follow other Latin American nations like Chile and Brazil in electing a woman to the presidency. However voters, perhaps unfairly, see her as a continuation of Calderon's presidency.

In 2000 the PAN's Vicente Fox broke the stranglehold the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) had held on the Mexican presidency for 71 years. At the end of his sixyear term he was followed by Calderon, a long-time PAN activist and former cabinet secretary

Vazquez Mota, an economist and former secretary of education, is tasked with extending that legacy. However few voters see much difference between her proposals and those of Calderon, especially regarding his blood-soaked

crackdown on drug gangs.

Ironically, Vazquez Mota won the party nomination by defeating Calderon's chosen successor. The intra-party wounds over the fight are still raw.

Vazquez Mota has promised to be tough on crime but to change the approach by improving the police -- a strategy that Calderon has already started.

She has also promised a gentler approach, focusing on victims of violence.

Vazquez Mota has sought to distance herself from Calderon by using the campaign slogan: "Josefina: Different."

The candidate -- a petite married mother of three children and a conservative Catholic opposed to abortion and gay marriage -- has appealed directly to female voters, and has emphasized her role as a mother on the campaign trail.

In mid-June, Vazquez Mota even urged female supporters at a rally to get their partners to vote for her or deny them "hanky-panky for one month."

If elected, Vazquez Mota said she plans to improve Mexico's widely-criticized education system and strengthen the country's economy.

She regularly blames the PRI for the country's current crime problems.



# EURO 2012 - POLAND June 8 - July 1 - UKRAIN



## **Alba shows himself worthy** successor to Capdevila



DONETSK (AFP) - Spanish left back Jordi Alba only made his debut last year for La Furia Roja - but the 23-year-old has come on leaps and bounds to show he is a worthy successor to Joan Capdevila, a veteran of the Euro 2009 and 2010 World Cup victories.

If there had been any doubt before the tournament that Spain might miss 34-year-old Capdevila, whom Benfica all but put out to pasture last season even though he only moved there last summer, Alba has managed to lay them to

He was the creator of Xabi Alonso's opener against France and turned in a strong all-round showing as he dealt adroitly with defensive and attacking duties alike.

Taking advantage of a slip by rival Mathieu Debuchy,

who whipped in a cross which Alonso dispatched into the net to put the holders on the way to a semi-final meeting with Portugal.

Of the 11 starters against the French only Alba was not in the victorious World Cup

Capdevila was a regular throughout the glorious Euro 2008 and World Cup campaigns but after losing his way at Benfica, where Brazilian Emerson was generally preferred, he was unable to show coach Vicente Del Bosque he could still perform with the national side.

In 2010, he was the only regular neither to play for Real Madrid nor Barcelona.

But at 34, age has caught up with him with the new kid on the block 11 years younger.

So it was that on October

11 last year Alba made his debut in a win over Scotland in Alicante in a Euro 2012 qualifier and now here he is holding down the position as his own.

His obvious quality has not been lost on Barcelona, who are keen to knock Real Madrid back off their recaptured Liga pedestal, although Valencia are to ask for 15 million euros for their man if he is indeed to head to the Camp Nou.



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## No room for sentiment in Loew's hunt for Euro glory

GDANSK (AFP) - With the Bundesliga producing a conveyor belt of fresh talent and national coach Joachim Loew eager to promote youth, reputations no longer appear to count for much in the Germany team.

Loew sprung a considerable surprise for Friday's Euro 2012 quarter-final when he changed three of his six-strong attack in the 4-2 demolition of Greece.

Despite having won all three Group B games, the mantra "never change a winning team" was ignored in the last eight game as striker Mario Gomez, plus forwards Lukas Podolski and Thomas Mueller were all axed.

Miroslav Klose celebrated

his 120th cap with his 64th international goal as he took Gomez's place.

Well, not so great for those who found themselves surplus to requirements.

Arsenal-bound Podolski, a permanent fixture since Euro 2004, was dropped for Bayer Leverkusen's Andre Schuerrle, who has been his understudy for the last 12

Likewise Mueller, voted best young player at the 2010 World Cup where he finished as top scorer, was over-looked as Borussia Moenchengladbach's Reus announced himself with silky passes, darting runs and Germany's fourth goal.

Had the gamble not paid off,

Loew would have taken considerable flak from a German press desperate for a first major title in 16 years.

Underlying the abandonment of his usual conservative selection policy was Loew's preference for dynamic youth over experienced maturity and his changes serve to highlight the strength in depth the Germans enjoy.

Gomez has finally transferred his impressive finishing skills from Bayern Munich to the Euro 2012 stage and was voted the man-of-the-match against Portugal after scoring the winning header.

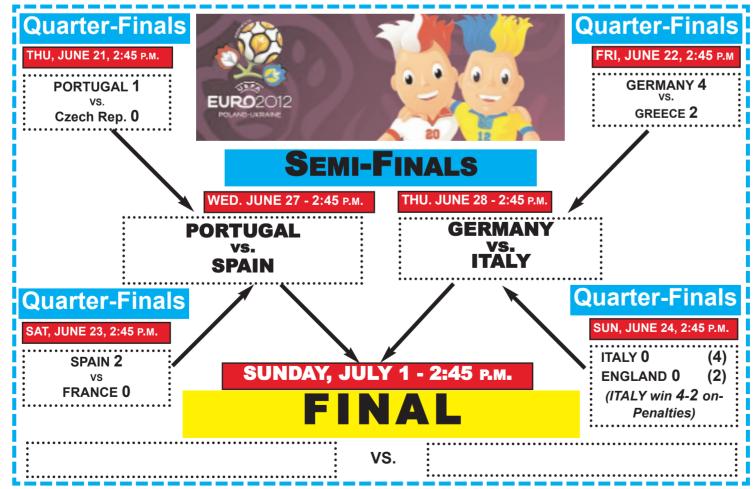
Likewise, Podolski celebrated his 100th cap in the 2-1 win against Denmark with a goal and the man-of-the-match award, yet he also found himself benched, as did Mueller, who was impressive in the 2-1 group win over Holland.

Now following a below-par performance against Greece, midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger could be forgiven a nervous glance over his shoulder for Thursday's semi-final with his Bayern team-mate Toni Kroos itching to start.

Loew's stewardship has seen the Germans rise steadily since he took charge after the 2006 World Cup - he was assistant to Jurgen Klinsmann at those finals - and he has built a squad with considerable strength now in all positions.

His biggest impact has been to add pace and flair to Germany's cliched reputation for efficient defence by using the pace of his young forwards.

"Mr Loew has done some excellent work, he has managed to build a team which used to be known for its pragmatism," said Greece coach Ferdando Santos after his team were well beaten.





# **Basket:** Tony Parker in doubt for the Olympics

PARIS (AFP) - French basketball star Tony Parker could miss next month's London Olympics due to the eye injury he sustained in a bizarre nightclub brawl in New York, he said on his website.

Parker, who plays for the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA, sustained the injury when he got caught in the cross-fire of a bottle-throwing brawl between friends of R&B singer Chris Brown and rapper Drake.

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He received glass fragments in his eye and later spoke about his fears of losing the sight in the eye alltogether,

He has subsequently sued the owners of the W.i.P. (Work in Progress) club in the SoHo neighborhood of Manhattan for £20million dollars, holding them responsible for the injury by allowing the two groups to be in the club at the same time knowing there was a history of bad blood between the two.

Parker was due to meet up with the highly-regarded French basketball team on Sunday, but will return to the United States on July 5 to seek the help of an eye specialist and talk with San Antonio officials.

"I will be seeing a specialist in New York and hope to get clearance to take part in the Olympic Games," he said.

"The Spurs are very worried. Depending on the results, anything could happen including my withdrawl from the Games,"The final decision is not mine to take. It's up to the doctor and San Antonio."

Parker's absence would be a huge blow to the French team as he is their star player and biggest name.

#### Emotional Alonso hails best ever win

VALENCIA (AFP) - Local hero Fernando Alonso sparked more Spanish celebrations here Sunday when he became the first man to win two Formula One races this year by driving his Ferrari to victory in the European Grand Prix.

Less than 24 hours after his national soccer team had secured their place in the semifinals at Euro 2012, the two-time drivers' champion gave a sun-basking crowd in Valencia every reason to enjoy another party.

Alonso, who picked up a Spanish flag to wave on his victorious slowing down lap, came home first ahead of Kimi Raikkonen of Lotus and third-placed seven-time champion Michael Schumacher of Mercedes.

Mark Webber, who started 19th, came home fourth for Red Bull ahead of Nico Hulkenberg and Nico Rosberg who was sixth for Mercedes.

Alonso's win lifted him to the top of the drivers' championship standings with 111 points ahead of Webber on 91 with Hamilton now third on 88, having come into the race as the leader.

Ferrari team principal Stefano Domenicali was ecstatic and said: "It was an unbelievable race and, for me, it is important that we kept the pace.

Defending double world champion Sebastian Vettel of Red Bull was forced to retire after dominating most of the race after starting from pole position as also was his nearest challenger Romain Grosjean of Lotus.

# Olympics: Saudis give women Games go-ahead

LONDON (AFP) - Saudi Arabia, where public sports events for women are banned, will allow females to compete in the Olympic Games for the first time, its embassy in London said in a statement issued.

The issue of women in sport remains extremely sensitive in the ultra-conservative Muslim state, where women are not even allowed to drive cars and the authorities shut down private gyms for women in 2009 and 2010.

Equestrian contestant Dalma Malhas, 18, is likely to be the country's only female athlete to qualify for this summer's Games in London which get underway on July 27.

Malhas won a bronze medal at the 2010 Singapore Youth Olympics without having been nominated by her country, following an invitation from the International Olympic Committee (OIC).

The BBC reported that Saudi's King Abdullah pushed for the policy change, but had delayed the announcement due to last week's death of heir-apparent Crown Prince Nayef.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Brunei are the only three countries never to have sent women athletes to the Olympics.

But Qatar has already announced it will send a threewoman team to London.

The move could provoke resistance in Malhas's homeland which operates under a strict Islamic code in which women are forced to cover themselves from head to toe.

Women wanting to take part in sports in the Gulf kingdom face an uphill struggle as they have to do so behind closed doors, like a group of 300 women who played basketball at an enclosed court in the city of Jeddah on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8.

#### **MLB Standings** American League **National League** W L Pct GB W L Pct GB East YANKEES 42 28 .600 **WASHINGTON** 41 28 .594 **BALTIMORE** 40 31 .563 2.5 39 33 .542 3.5 NY METS TAMPA 38 32 .543 4.0 ATLANTA 38 33 .535 4.0 **PHILADELPHIA** 34 38 .472 8.5 **BOSTON** 37 34 .521 5.5 **T**ORONTO 37 34 521 5.5 33 38 .465 9.0 MIAMI Central W L Pct GB Central W L Pct GB CLEVELAND 37 33 .529 --CINCINNATI 39 31 .557 37 34 .521 0.5 **PITTSBURG** CHICAGO 38 32 .543 1.0 **DETROIT** 34 37 .479 3.5 **ST. LOUIS** 37 35 .514 3.0 31 38 .449 5.5 33 38 .465 6.5 29 42 .408 10.5 **MINNESOTA** 28 42 .400 9.0 **HOUSTON** CHICAGO 24 47 .338 15.5 W L Pct GB W L Pct GB West **TEXAS** 44 28 .611 --**LA DODGERS** 43 29 .597 LA ANGELES 39 33 .542 5.0 SAN FRANCISCO 40 32 .556 3.0 34 38 .472 10.0 OAKLAND 36 35 .507 6.5 **ARIZONA** 31 42 .425 13.5 SEATTLE 27 43 .386 15.0 COLORADO 25 47 .347 18.0 SAN DIEGO x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ



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## Italy advance as England pay penalty once more



Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon saves a shot from England's Glen Johnson

KIEV (AFP) - England's penalty curse struck again here Sunday as Italy advanced to the semi-finals of Euro 2012 with victory in a shoot-out after a tense quarter-final duel finished 0-0 following extra-time.

The Italians will face Germany in the semi-finals in Warsaw on Thursday after England's campaign came to a bitterly familiar end with their sixth defeat in a penalty shoot-out in seven attempts since 1990.

Italy clinched a 4-2 penalty shoot-out win after Ashley Young sent his spot-kick against the bar and Italy captain Gianluigi Buffon saved from Ashley Cole to seal England's fate.

The winning penalty was struck by substitute Alessandro Diamanti to leave England desolate once more at Kiev's Olympic Stadium.

England coach Roy Hodgson said his side had given their all.

"We've gone out without being beaten with our heads held high and making the country proud," he told BBC television.

"Both Ashleys were knocking in the penalties in

practice but in reality practice doesn't translate into the real thing as you can't take into account energy levels that are run down, tired legs and minds.

"They got their bit of luck and it wasn't to be for us."

England skipper Steven Gerrard was equally dejected.

"The players have given eveything," he told the BBC. "I thought we might have the luck in the penalty shoot-out but it wasn't to be. The lads at the back were fantastic, we have done the country proud but we go home heartbroken and that is hard to take."

England had taken a 2-1 lead in the shoot-out after Riccardo Montolivo hit his spot-kick wide but Young ceded England's advantage when he crashed his penalty off the bar.

Antonio Nocerino scored to restore Italy's advantage and when Buffon saved from Cole, Diamanti stepped up to clinch victory.

The defeat extended England's poor record of never having won a knockout game on foreign soil against a top-level football nation.

But England could have few complaints after being

comprehensively outplayed over the 120 minutes of normal and extra-time, Italy with 35 attempts to England's 9 while enjoying 64 percent of possession.

The tone for a surprisingly open first half had been set after only three minutes, when Daniele De Rossi rattled the woodwork with a thumping shot from 25 yards that had Joe Hart beaten.

England responded immediately and squandered a golden chance to take the lead when Glen Johnson's effort was superbly saved by Buffon.

With their confidence lifted England enjoyed their best spell of the match and a curling Johnson cross saw Wayne Rooney's diving header fly over with the Manchester United striker under pressure from Ignazio Abate.

But having soaked up the early English pressure, Italy soon got into their stride with man-of-the-match Andrea Pirlo springing England's off-side trap to send Mario Balotelli racing clear on 25 minutes.

The Manchester City striker took just a fraction too long, however, and John Terry was able to snuff out the danger with a fine cover tackle.

Italy finished the half the stronger of the two sides, Antonio Cassano testing Hart with a long-range effort which was parried wide.

Cassano then turned provider when he headed back across goal for Balotelli, only for Joleon Lescott to get a vital touch ahead of his City team-mate.

Italy's dominance stretched into the second half, and England continued to live dangerously.

De Rossi wasted a golden chance to put his side ahead when he hooked wide after



Italy players celebrate after Alessandro Diamanti scored the decisive penalty

Claudio Marchisio headed Hart's punched clearance into

Hart then rescued England

Prandelli meanwhile rang the changes for Italy, bringing on Diamanti for Cassano and Nocerino for De Rossi.



English team react as they lose the penalty shoot out after the Euro 2012 football championships quarter-final match

with a fine double doublesave, parrying De Rossi's long-range effort before blocking Balotelli's followup. Montolivo shot over the bar but England breathed again.

Hodgson made a positive double substitution on the hour-mark, bringing on Andy Carroll for Danny Welbeck and replacing James Milner with Theo Walcott.

The changes had little effect, however, with England unable to exploit Walcott's pace, leaving the Arsenal winger a frustrated spectator.

Diamanti was soon into the action testing Hart with a firm low shot. Nocerino also had a chance to snatch victory two minutes from time, latching onto Marchisio's lovely pass only for Johnson to block.

Italy again dominated in extra-time, Diamanti's curling cross eluding the entire English defence and hitting the post.

Then with five minutes remaining Nocerino had the ball in the net from Diamanti's across only to be correctly ruled off-side.